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The KGB and the Nuclear Freeze

Critics of President Reagan's charge that the Soviets have manipulated the U.S. nuclear freeze movement are finding themselves with egg on their faces. Not only is there much public evidence of the KGB-freeze connection, but the House Intelligence Committee is expected to release a declassified version of testimony on the subject given before that committee by FBI counter-intelligence chief Edward O'Malley.

According to one source familiar with the testimony, the FBI has developed "hard intelligence" on KGB efforts to penetrate and exploit the so-called "peace movement."

FBI Director William Webster said last week during an appearance at the convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) in Atlanta that the bureau has supplied the National Security Council with a special report on the issue of Soviet influence in the freeze movement "which included factual data on this problem...."

Webster also indicated that Soviet activity in this area was part of an "Active Measures" campaign, which, by definition, involves a wide range of activities—the use of front groups, disinformation, political influence operations and media manipulation—to promote Soviet foreign policy objectives.

At his last news conference, President Reagan was asked by a reporter if he had any evidence of foreign involvement in the U.S. peace movement. "Yes, there is plenty of evidence," the President replied. "It's even been published by some of your fraternity. There was no question but that the Soviet Union saw an advantage... built around the idea of a nuclear freeze, since they are out ahead."

After noting that the "overwhelming majority" of freeze supporters are sincere and well-intentioned, and that his Administration is dedicated to negotiating reductions in U.S.-Soviet nuclear weaponry, the President said, "But, yes, there has been [foreign involvement] in the organization of some of the big demonstrations—the one in New York and so forth. There is no question about foreign agents that were sent to help instigate and help

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Asked about the extent of foreign involvement, and whether any money had changed hands, the President said, "I can't go beyond what I've done because I don't discuss intelligence matters, and that's what I would be getting into now."

Roger Young, the assistant FBI director for congressional and public affairs, told HUMAN EVENTS that the President spoke "from a solid base of information, which we, the FBI, furnished the White House back in early October." Young added, "We know that the KGB has done certain things to target the peace movement, the freeze movement—they are relatively interchangeable at this point—to exert influence on them."

At the White House press briefing the day after the presidential news conference, journalists asked spokesman Larry Speakes if he could produce any evidence supporting President Reagan's statements on the Soviet-freeze connection. Speakes said, "The Soviet effort to exploit the well-motivated intentions of those in other nations who are seeking peace is well-known. There is considerable U.S. government documentation on this, and a good deal is on the public record."

He then provided the following list of government reports and magazine articles:

"Department of State Special Report No. 88, Soviet 'Active Measures'—Forgery, Disinformation, Political Operations, October 1981; and its update, Special Report No. 101, Soviet Active Measures: An Update, July 1982.

"Department of State Foreign Affairs Notes, World Peace Council: Instrument of Soviet Foreign Policy, April 1982.

"Department of State Foreign Affairs Notes, Expulsion of Soviet Representatives in Foreign Countries, 1980-1981.

"House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence [report] entitled, 'Soviet Covert Action' (The Forgery Offensive), February 1980. This committee has just completed extensive hearings on 'Soviet Active Measures' and will issue an unclassified transcript in the very near future [a reference to the O'Malley testimony]

"Among a number of interesting articles on this subject are:

"John Barron's article in the October 1982 *Reader's Digest*.

"Others include an article in the May 1982 issue of *Commentary* by Vladimir Bukovsky, now connected with Kings College at Cambridge, England,